

What is claimed is:

1. A hoisting apparatus comprising:
a base secured to a ceiling;
5 a load holder, to which a load is detachably attached;
a pair of first and second cables extending between said base and said load holder;
a drive means mounted to said base, to which one ends of said first and second cables are connected, so that said drive means is operative to take in
10 or let out said first and second cables from said base; and
a horizontal stabilizing means for said load holder including a shaft horizontally supported in said load holder to be freely rotatable, wherein said first cable is connected at its opposite end to an end portion of said shaft, and wound around said shaft in a first winding direction, and said second cable is
15 connected at its opposite end to an opposite end portion of said shaft, and wound around said shaft in a second winding direction opposite to the first winding direction.
- 20 2. The hoisting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said load holder has a housing for incorporating said shaft therein, and said shaft is placed in said housing such that a center of gravity of said load holder with said load is positioned on a vertical line extending downwardly from a center point on said shaft between said first and second cables.
- 25 3. The hoisting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first and second cables are of a pair of strip cables, and said load holder includes a housing for incorporating said shaft therein, which has a pair of slits for passing said strip
30 cables therethrough in its top surface, and wherein said slits are spaced from

each other in an axial direction of said shaft by a required distance, and one of said slits is displaced from the other one in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction.

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4. The hoisting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first and second cables are of a pair of strip cables, and said load holder includes a housing, in which a space for incorporating said shaft therein is defined, and wherein said housing has a pair of slits for passing said strip cables therethrough in its top 10 surface, and a pair of guide projections each having a curved top for guiding said strip cables into said slits, which project in said space above said shaft.

5. The hoisting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said shaft is formed 15 with a pair of elongate pieces that are separable along its axial direction, and wherein the opposite ends of said first and second cables are caught between said elongate pieces such that a position of inserting the opposite end of said first cable in a gap between said elongate pieces is spaced from the position of inserting the opposite end of said second cable in the gap between said 20 elongate pieces by 180 degrees around said shaft.

6. The hoisting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first and second cables are of a pair of strip cables, said load holder includes a housing for 25 incorporating said shaft therein, which has a pair of slits for passing said strip cables therethrough in its top surface, and a pair of protrusions extending upwardly from its rim adjacent to said strip cables to prevent such a situation that said load holder suspended from said base be accidentally rotated about a horizontal axis to cause a kink in said strip cables.

7. A hoisting apparatus comprising:

- a base secured to a ceiling;
- a load holder, to which a load is detachably attached;
- 5 a pair of cables extending between said base and said load holder;
- a drive means mounted to said base, which is operative to take in or let out said cables from said base; and
- a horizontal stabilizing means for said load holder including a shaft horizontally supported in said load holder to be freely rotatable, around
- 10 which said cables are wound in opposite winding directions to each other,

wherein said horizontal stabilizing means is operative to correct an inclination of said load holder in a horizontal position by unwinding a required length of one of said cables from said shaft and at the same time winding the same length of the other one around said shaft.

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8. A load holder for a hoisting apparatus, said load holder comprising:

- a housing having a bottom, to which a load is detachably attached;
- a horizontal stabilizing means including a shaft horizontally supported in said
- 20 housing to be freely rotatable; and
- a pair of cables, which are connected at its one ends to opposite end portions of said shaft, and wound around said shaft in opposite winding directions to each other, wherein under a suspended state of the load holder, said horizontal stabilizing means is operative to correct an inclination of said load
- 25 holder in a horizontal position by unwinding a required length of one of said cables from said shaft and at the same time winding the same length of the other one around said shaft.

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